

MARY ANNE SALMON

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**THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

October 14, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

As a state legislator whose family is in the trucking business, I know firsthand the importance the Internet plays in keeping small businesses running efficiently. Access to the Internet – both on traditional wireline and wireless networks – is absolutely critical to any business trying to survive today. The Internet is more than an economic development tool. It's the lifeblood of a great many small businesses out there.

It is amazing how predominant the Internet has become in a relatively short time period. And it has happened with little or no involvement by the government. Therefore, I am concerned your agency plans to develop new rules to govern the Internet as this may discourage investment by the big telecom companies that small businesses need to get the most out of the Internet. Small business is going to lead us out of the economic recession we're in today. They need all the help they can get. New rules on regulating the Internet would not fall in that category.

Senator Mary Anne Salmon
Letter to Federal Communications Commission
October 14, 2009
Page 2

The Internet market is doing very well under current FCC principles, thus it is difficult to understand why the federal government should regulate the Internet this way. For the FCC, the appropriate course would be to not take any steps except to help remove any roadblocks standing between the industry and 100% broadband availability for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Anne Salmon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mary Anne Salmon
State Senator
District 31

MAS:sl